that elected Urban, and who alone knew how the Schism had really arisen, only two were still alive: Benedict himself, under the protection of King Martin of Aragon at Perpignan, and the aged Cardinal of Poitiers, Guy de Malesset, who now presided over the deliberations of the assembly. On June 5, the Council deposed both Gregory and Benedict as heretics and schismatics ; the *Te Deum* rose up from the cathedral of Pisa to thank God for the deliverance of His Church; the bells rang out, and were caught up by the campanili of village after village, until the news in this way reached Florence. On June 26, twenty-four cardinals, fourteen of whom had previously acknowledged Gregory and ten Benedict, elected the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, Peter Philargis, a friar minor of Greek origin, who assumed the title of Pope Alexander V.

We are not here concerned with the legality of these proceedings. Catholic historians assure us that the cardinals had no right either to summon the Council or to depose the Pope, whichever of the two claimants we regard as legitimate. As neither Gregory nor Benedict would resign their claims, the result was that the Church had now to witness the spectacle of three rival Popes instead of two. But, were we to apply Catherine's test of the adherence of the " servants of God," [1] we should be compelled to accept Alexander. This time, however, her own followers were divided. Assailed by the foulest lampoons, denounced as an ally of Mahomet and Simon Magus, Giovanni Dominici not only kept faithful to Gregory, but used all the powers of his eloquence to prevent him from abdicating; although his own master-general, Fra Tommaso da Fermo, had taken part in the Council, and the Dominican order as a whole acknowledged Alexander as Pope in the most emphatic language.[2] It seems uncertain whether Stefano Maconi was actually present at the Council, but it is quite clear that, notwithstanding his personal friendship with Gregory, he now

[1] Letter 350 (187).

[a] Cf. *Mmumenta O. F. P. Aistortca,* torn. viii. pp. 138-143. 402